

In the Claims:

Claims 1 through 22. (canceled)

23. (currently amended) A hydroelectric turbine ~~which uses~~ comprising a rotor and three distinctly separate groups of magnets: a first ~~one~~ group of magnets arranged to produce the magnetic field necessary to produce electricity; a second ~~one~~ group of magnets arranged with similar poles facing each other to maintain alignment of the rotor; and, a third ~~one~~ group of magnets arranged with similar poles facing each other to prevent the rotor from being forced downstream by the force of the water against the rotor.

Claims 24 through 25. (canceled)

26. (new) The hydroelectric turbine of claim 23 which produces electricity without the use of a central shaft.

27. (new) The hydroelectric turbine of claim 23, wherein said rotor comprises at least one blade.

28. (new) The hydroelectric turbine of claim 23, wherein said rotor comprises an outer rim, at least one blade and an inner rim.

29. (new) The hydroelectric turbine of claim 28, further comprising a stator housing, and wherein said rotor is not physically connected to said stator housing.

30. (new) The hydroelectric turbine of claim 29, wherein said second group of magnets and said third group of magnets separate said rotor from said stator housing.

31. (new) The hydroelectric turbine of claim 29, further comprising a water lubricated bearing material attached to said stator housing.

32. (new) The hydroelectric turbine of claim 29, further comprising a metallic surface disposed on said outer rim.

33. (new) The hydroelectric turbine of claim 29, further comprising a porcelain surface disposed on said outer rim.

34. (new) The hydroelectric turbine of claim 23, wherein said rotor is maintained in position solely by action of said second group of magnets and said third group of magnets.

35. (new) A hydroelectric turbine comprising:

a stationary stator housing;

a rotor comprising an outer rim, at least one blade and an inner rim, said rotor disposed within said stator housing and turned by downstream water flow; and

a first group of magnets arranged to produce the magnetic field necessary to produce electricity; a second group of magnets arranged with similar poles facing each other to maintain alignment of said rotor within said stator housing; and a third group of magnets arranged with similar poles facing each other to prevent said rotor from being forced downstream and out of said stator housing by the downstream water flow.

36. (new) The hydroelectric turbine of claim 35 which produces electricity without the use of a central shaft.

37. (new) The hydroelectric turbine of claim 35, wherein said rotor is not physically connected to said stator housing.

38. (new) The hydroelectric turbine of claim 35, wherein said second group of magnets and said third group of magnets separate said rotor from said stator housing.

39. (new) The hydroelectric turbine of claim 35, further comprising a water lubricated bearing material attached to said stator housing.

40. (new) The hydroelectric turbine of claim 35, further comprising a metallic surface disposed on said outer rim.

41. (new) The hydroelectric turbine of claim 35, further comprising a porcelain surface disposed on said outer rim.

42. (new) The hydroelectric turbine of claim 35, wherein said rotor is maintained in position solely by action of said second group of magnets and said third group of magnets.